(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present before the Government to bring about any change in the present system of appointment of Judges in the Supreme Court and the High Courts.

Corruption in judiciary

1764. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any official/unofficial survey of the extent of prevalence of corruption in judicial system of the country has been conducted;

(b) if so, its outcome and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether NGOs/CVC/CBI/Supreme Court/High Courts/Transparency International have made any suggestions/observations in the above context;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(e) the corruption cases/complaints received against Judges of Supreme Court/High Courts, during the last three years and their disposal; and

(f) whether Government intends to legislate/set up any mechanism to ensure probity in judicial system?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Because the complaints regarding corruption in judiciary are dealt with by their peers.

(c) and (d) The Supreme Court in their Full Court meeting held on May 7, 1997, resolved to devise an in-house procedure to take suitable remedial action against Judges who, by their act of omission or commission, do not follow the universally accepted values of judicial life including those indicated in the "Restatement of Values of Judicial Life."

(e) and (f) Complaints received against the Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are dealt with under "In-House" procedure. The Government has, however, introduced Judges (Inquiry) Bill, 2006 in the Lok Sabha on 19.12.2006 which seeks to devise a suitable legislative framework for empowering a judicial forum to deal with complaints against judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts.

As far as the District and Subordinate Courts are concerned, the respective High Courts are empowered to take cognizance of complaints against the members of the lower judiciary.

Seminar on judicial reforms

1765. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a seminar on judicial reforms was held at New Delhi, recently;

(b) if so, the details of the points on which discussions were held in the seminar;

(c) whether Government is aware that the delay in providing justice was fraught with the risk of promoting the lynch mob phenomenon; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to encourage that justice is provided within a fixed time period?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A conference was held on 1st February, 2008 at Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi to discuss the establishment of Gram Nyayalayas and other related matters like time-frame and financial arrangements for setting up the Gram Nyayalayas in pursuance of the "Gram Nyayalayas Bill, 2007" which has been introduced in the Parliament.

(c) and (d) Government is conscious of the huge backlog of cases in courts. Government is implementing a Centrally Sponsored plan scheme for development of infrastructure facilities for judiciary. Another Central Scheme for computerisation of District and Subordinate courts in the country is also being implemented. Government has continued Fast Track Courts to reduce arrears at Sessions Courts level. Further, with a view to providing speedy, affordable and substantive justice to the poor at the grassroots level, the Government has introduced the Gram Nyayalaya Bill, 2007 in the Parliament.

Reforms in judicial system

†1766. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken note of Hon'ble Justice of Supreme Court's statement wherein he has indicated judicial reforms through administrative reforms;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government on the basis of the said statement, so far; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (d) Government and the Judiciary at the highest level have been interacting for reducing arrears of cases in the courts and carrying out judicial reforms. Observations and directions of the Apex Court, from time to time, are taken note by the Government. Judicial reforms, however, is a continuous process. It has to keep pace with the changing time, conditions and requirements of the people. Government is committed to providing speedy and inexpensive justice to the common man.

Various judicial reform measures being implemented by the Government include: scheme of Fast Track Courts and Family Courts, Infrastructure support for Judiciary including computerization, simplification of judicial procedures, augmenting Judges' strength in High Courts, training of Judicial Officers for improvement in the quality of administration of justice, accountability of judges, organizing Lok Adalats and encouraging alternative modes of dispute resolution, setting up of special tribunals etc. Further, to provide speedy, affordable and substantive justice to the poor at the grassroots level, the Government has introduced the Gram Nyayalaya Bill, 2007 in the Parliament.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.